

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

22 pages of sketches, diagrams, and overlays illustrating aspects of the uranium mining activities in Czechoslovakia. 50X1-HUM  
This material is referred to in the following text.

1. Until 1958, the "Jachymovske Doly, narodni podnik" (National Enterprise Jachymov Mines) with its seat in Jachymov was subordinate to the Ministry for Mining and Metallurgy with its seat in Prague.
2. In 1958, it was subordinated to the "Statni ustav pro vyzkum radioaktivnich surovin" (State Institute for Research Work on Radioactive Raw Materials), which, in the same year, had been established in Horni Zdar, two kilometers south of Jachymov. The Soviet head office is also located in Horni Zdar. 50X1-HUM
  - a. Since autumn 1958, Arnost Schindler, engineer, has been director of the institute.

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- b. The deputy director at the institute probably is a Soviet engineer. Details are not known.
- c. About 40 to 50 persons, mostly Czechoslovaks, are employed at the institute. They are daily carried to their working places by buses coming from the direction of Karlovy Vary. Most of the Soviet personnel live in Ostrov in the so-called "Sidliste" (colony).
- d. It is the task of the institute to technically and commercially control and supervise the exploitation of the Czechoslovak uranium ore deposits.
- e. All vehicles needed by the institute are made available by the central garage of the Jachymov Mines, which is located about 1,000 m. west of the institute and has a fleet of about 300 vehicles (passenger cars, delivery vans and jeeps). All vehicles [redacted] which always starts with 00 and has no letters. The director's duty car is a black TATRA 800 sedan.
- f. The institute is guarded by members of the SNB (National Security Corps). By day, a sentry stands at the gate who is armed with a machine gun; at night, the area is patrolled with dogs and illuminated by the searchlights of the penal colony located across the road. Four barracks accommodating about 80 to 100 members of the SNB are located in the yard of the institute.

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3. Soviet Laboratory in Horni Zdar

The Soviet laboratory located in Horni Zdar is generally called "Russian laboratory" by the inhabitants [redacted]

- a. About 20 Soviet employees are working there. The following persons are known:

Konstantin Trubacef,

surveying engineer, [redacted]

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Sasa (Alexej) Holowanov,

engineer; geologist [redacted]

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Vladimir - Romanovic Astachov, surveying engineer, [redacted]

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There is a definite connection between the laboratory and the institute located on the opposite side.

- b. The main task of the laboratory is to analyze uranium ore samples. It is presumably also carrying out surveying work and translating labels and extraction results into the Russian language.

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Jute bags of 5 kg. of ore each, labeled with wooden tags indicating the origin of the ore, are stored in the depot for uranium samples. The samples are taken in the mines by employees of the institute's geological department. The chauffeur taking the samples to the laboratory is always a Soviet citizen.

No Czechoslovak is admitted to the Soviet laboratory, which has about 5 or 6 passenger cars (TUDOR and TATRAPLAN) as well as 2 or 3 jeeps, all parked in own garages.

4. Since late 1956, the Jachymov Mines includes three inspectorates: Inspectorate I, Jachymov including Trutnov, Inspectorate II, Horni Slavkov including Plana, and Inspectorate III, Pribram.
5. Two wet dressing plants are available. One of the plants, which was enlarged by combining it with the plant formerly belonging to the shaft Bratrstvi, is located in the mining area of the shaft Elias, the other one in the Nejdek area.

The OTK (department for technical control) located between Vykmánov and Horni Zdar was expanded in 1958 to be used as a test dressing plant working with an acid procedure. Whether the installation remained a test plant or was put into regular operation is not known. It is known, however, that neither radioactive material nor graded ore (Stufenerz) was carried to that place. The local national committee as well as the district national committee in Ostrov, had protested against these tests because of the contamination of the Chéč River with acid and other effluents. In early 1959, the OTK was transferred from Dolni Zdar to Pribram.

In the spring of 1959, the ore-washing installation of Hochofen (Vysoka Pec) was not transferred to Horni Slavkov but to Nejdek.

6. The uranium-ore mines in the Jachymov area are depleted to 60 per cent.

- a. Of the known shafts, the following were abandoned:

Bratrstvi  
Rovnost I  
Eduard  
Potucky

- b. The following old shafts are still working:

Panorama  
Plavno  
Rovnost II  
Eva  
Abertamy Vychod  
Svornost  
Barbora

In 1958, open-pit mining at the shaft Popov (formerly Pfaffengruen) was abandoned and underground mining was started.

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- c. Since summer 1958, the following new, very rich shafts have been opened up:

Abertamy  
Jizni Jama

In the mining area around the shaft Plavno, a new, rich field was cut by a blind-shaft from the fourth level. The veins 5 and 5a are especially rich in uranium ore.

7. From talks conducted with experts it can be assumed that the ore output in the Pribram area (Inspectorate III) is equal to the output presently achieved in the Jachymov area (Inspectorate I).
8. Nothing is known about a transfer of the main production from the Jachymov protectorates to Pribram, Nejdek or Slovakia.
9. New uranium-ore deposits were opened up, including the prospecting and the two new shafts in Horazdovice and Susice. According to workers employed there, the deposits are very rich.
10. From Inspectorate I (Jachymov), the ore is transported by road to Ostrov and from there by rail in the direction of East Germany. The hauling routes of Inspectorate II and Inspectorate III are not known.

11. Mining Management in Jachymov

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Basement: heating installation and coal depot.

Ground floor: southern wing: perforated-cards department;  
central section: blueprint department;  
northern wing: department for the security/safety of underground mining/mining police department and cadre department.

First floor: southern wing: mechanical department and planning department;  
central section: offices of the manager, engineer Karel Bocek;  
northern wing: secret records office (Tajny archiv) with maps stored in safes.

Second floor: southern wing: geological department;  
central section: geophysical department;  
northern wing: surveying department.

Third floor: eight flats for Czechoslovak and Russian employees of the Jachymov mining industry with a separate entrance from the northern part of the building.

Former Tobacco Plant

Basement: heating installation and coal depot.

Ground floor: northern wing: detachment of the Interior Guards (green uniforms, collar patches with crossed keys, service cap with silver ribbon);  
southern wing: personnel department.

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First floor: northern wing: planning department;  
southern wing: pay-roll office.

Second floor: northern wing: dressing and equipment rooms of the  
geophysical department accommodated on the  
second floor of the main building; laboratory  
for water and air analyses, analyses on  
radioactivity.  
southern wing: time keeper department.

Rooms on the attic: unknown.

A large mess hall for about 1,000 persons is located south of the main building. Next to the mess hall, there are the garages (two-story building) for the emergency service with four special vehicles equipped with rescue devices for emergencies (two fire trucks).

First floor: quarters for about 16 men of an alert unit (blue uniforms, red collar patches, caps).

All documents, records and maps of the Jachymov Mines are stored in the secret records office in the main building, first floor, northern wing. The following documents, records and maps are available there:

all geographical maps of the Jachymov mining industry, different scales (e.g. 1 : 5,000);

the elevation maps of the various mine galleries, scales:  
1 : 500 and 1 : 1,000;

all mining maps (Dobryvací mapy), scales: 1 : 500 and 1 : 1,000;

records on the ore output;

records on the monthly work plan drawn up for the individual shafts;

plans for opening-up and mining projects to be carried out;

maps dating back to 1775.

The documents are marked "confidential", "secret" and "top secret". Secret and top-secret documents are only handed over against receipt and with approval of the competent department chief. Confidential documents may be handed over to an employee against his signature. During night time, no document is allowed to be kept outside the archives.

12. Organization and Administration of the Jachymov

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The manager is mining engineer Karel Bocek

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The Soviet engineer Kupcenko, who has been with the management since 1956, has the same position as the manager himself.

The management includes the following four departments:

a. Surveying Department

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Since 1946, the surveying department has been headed by engineer Karel Elias

The department further employs three engineers and two technicians.

b. Geological Department

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Since 1955, the geological department has been headed by the Soviet engineer Korolev.

The department further employs 5 or 6 persons, including 2 Czechoslovak engineers.

c. Geophysical Department

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The geophysical department is headed by the Soviet engineer Tatarinov,

d. Personnel Department

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Since 1948, the personnel department has been headed by the Czechoslovak engineer Josef Topinka,

The department further employs 5 men and 5 women.

13. Inspectorate I, Jachymov

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Engineer Bem, formerly Boehm, has been inspector of the Jachymov inspectorate since 1958.

a. Surveying Department

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Since 1955, the surveying department is headed by the Czechoslovak engineer Michael Bacas

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b. Geological Department

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The geological department is headed by the Soviet engineer Kuznecov, who came from Moscow in 1955.

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Another employee of this department is Wenzel Suchanek, a technician and geologist.

The department further employs two male and two female assistants.

c. Geophysical Department

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Since 1956, the geophysical department has been headed by the Czech Karel Havlik.

Further employees of this department are three geophysicists.

d. Personnel Department

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Since 1957, the personnel department has been headed by the Czechoslovak half-Jew Hlusek.

Further employees of this department are three women and two men.

Like the management and Inspectorate I, Inspectorate II and Inspectorate III with their respective mine include four departments each. Nothing is known about their personnel assignments.

e. "Russian Laboratory" in Horni Zdar

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The "Russian laboratory" in Horni Zdar, which employs about 20 persons, is off-limits for non-Soviets. The ore samples analysed there for radioactivity are taken in the mines by the laboratory's employees or by geologists and geophysicists of the institute and are carried to the laboratory by Soviet drivers. The results of the analyses are decisive for further exploitation. Respective orders as to the work to be done in the various mines are given by the laboratory to the inspectorate via the management (engineer Kupcenko).

f. Laboratory of the Jachymov Inspectorate

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The laboratory of the Jachymov inspectorate is accommodated on the first floor of the former tobacco plant. It is headed by a Czech and has to analyze radioactivity of water and air in old workings. The laboratory employs five Czechs.

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- g. Prospecting above ground in the entire Jachymov mining area is carried out by a sub-department of Inspectorate I, which is headed by engineer Vojtasek. The sub-department employs 20 men, who, in groups of two to four persons, are cutting prospecting trenches (about 20 m. long and 2.5 m. deep) marked out by the surveying department.
- h. Underground prospecting is carried out by the individual shaft managements by order of the inspectorate concerned. A distinction is made between test galleries (Perspektivni pruskum) and horizontal bore-holes, which are made with so-called "Graelius" machines. All prospecting results are reported to the inspectorate concerned.

In 1959, the prospecting results were satisfactory. Calculations are on another 10 years of exploitation, considering the present mining activity.

#### 14. Extraction of Ore

##### a. Potucky Shafts Magdalena, Slovan and Mir

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The veins 70 and 70 a have been 60 per cent exploited to a depth of 100 m. The deeper veins are partly exploited from East German territory. The shafts Magdalena, Slovan and Mir, which are maintained by Czechoslovakia, are interconnected underground.

Geological composition: igneous rock, crystalline slate, fat clay, porphyry and bauxite deposits. The ore is found in kidney-shaped pockets, is compact and of high grade.

In 1958, Czechoslovakia discontinued extraction, sorting and hauling of the ore. There is no Czechoslovak chief engineer, only maintenance personnel, as for instance pumpmen, machinists, etc.

##### b. Shaft and Gallery Abertamy

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In 1956, the shaft and gallery Abertamy were opened up. The veins alpha, beta, gamma and delta, which were cut from the gallery as well as from the shaft itself, are considered the principal active veins mentioned before. The geological composition corresponds to that found in Potucky.

The normal ore output per shaft amounts to 10 tons a day.

The ore is sorted by employees of the geophysical department in the ore chamber, located at the shaft, and, on the basis of Mache units determined by a Geiger counter, separated into grades ranging from 1 to 6 (Stufenerz - graded ore).

The radioactive material is sorted into two groups, into strongly radioactive material, called S material, and into material of weak radioactivity, called U material.

The Czech technical designation is "Fabricnaya ruda".

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In the ore chamber, grade 1 ore is packed into iron boxes (30 x 30 x 30 cm, 50 kg) (Smolka = pitchblende), the ore of the grades 2 to 6 into wooden boxes of the same dimensions. U and S material is loaded on trucks as it is.

All ore is transported by truck either to the OTK at the shaft Elias or to Nejdek. The carriage capacity of one truck amounts to 40 boxes.

The ore of the Abertamy field is lentil-shaped or betryoidal, deep-black, shining, similar to mineral coal and very heavy. One truck with graded ore and three to four trucks with active material are daily (except Sundays) removed per shaft. Work in the shaft and the gallery is done in 3 shifts of 400 men each.

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The chief engineer is Jaroslav Mar.

Each shaft has a Soviet engineer as technical head.

c. Shaft Abertamy-Vychod

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The shaft Abertamy-Vychod is a prospecting shaft (perspektivni pruskum) with two crosscuts: one in easterly direction, the other one in westerly direction, both 800 m. long and in a depth of 120 m. They are planned to be extended in easterly direction up to the Barbora field and in westerly direction up to the shaft Abertamy.

Underground prospecting work is carried out with a view to start mining in the very near future. The shaft Abertamy-Vychod is subordinate to the shaft Abertamy. The geological composition of the material there corresponds to that of the Abertamy and Barbora fields.

d. Shafts Barbora, Elias, Eduard, Eva, Rovnost I and II and Klement;  
Galleries "I. Maj", "Bratrstvi" and Edelleutstollen

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The Barbora mine has been in production since 1949. Most of the miners are prisoners, working in three shifts of 400 men each. The chief engineer is Josef Stanek,

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The technical head is a Soviet engineer. The mine has already been 60 per cent exploited. It is estimated that mining will still be profitable for another 4 years. For ore sorting, removal and geological composition, see shaft Abertamy.

The shafts Eduard, Elias, Eva, Rovnost I and II are connected underground by crosscuts and "Kamine" (vertical shafts) and are working at the same deposits. Formerly, the entire area was called "western mine".

The surface installations of the Eva mine were put out of service in 1958 and were converted to a central ventilation plant for the "western mine".

Geological composition: crystalline slate, porphyry interspersals, quartz veins and, from 800 m. downwards, granites.

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Mining activity is continuing in the following galleries: the "Geistergang", the "Rote-Gang", which is very rich in bauzite, the "Fiedlergang", the "Schweizergang" and the "Eliasgang". All these galleries are 70 per cent exploited. New galleries, however, are being driven as test galleries in easterly and westerly direction.

For ore sorting, output, type and removal, see shaft Abertamy.

e. Shafts Svornost, Tomas, Panorama, Leopold, Popov and Jiani Jama

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(1) Shaft Svornost

The chief of the shaft Svornost is the Czechoslovak engineer Friman [redacted]

[redacted] The technical head is a Soviet engineer.

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The Svornost mine is the only mine in the Jachymov mining area which works with a skip winding. During this operation, the level of radioactivity of the lean ore is determined.

The "Josefs-Schacht", which is located 200 m. from the shaft Svornost, is used for men and material haulage. Fifty per cent of the workforce are prisoners. Work is done in three shifts of 500 men each. The prisoners (about 2,000 men) are housed in barracks next to the shaft.

Geological composition: crystalline slate, minette, porphyry and quartz veins.

The richest and best known galleries are the following: the "Kaiser Josefs-Gang", the "Prokobi-Gang" and the "Joh. Evangelisten-Gang". The shaft Svornost is the deepest shaft (1011 m) of the Jachymov mining area and has 12 levels. For sorting, removal of the ore etc., see shaft (Abertamy).

(2) Shaft Bratrstvi

The ore fields of the newly driven shafts Tomas, Panorama, Leopold and Popov, shafts which are located south of the shaft Bratrstvi, were cut from the latter. This was being done for conveying and economic reasons. It appeared unprofitable to exploit these fields from the shaft Svornost.

The richest and best known galleries are the following: the "Glueckauf-Gang" (Zila Zdarbuch), the "Francisci-Gang" and the "Gabrielle-Gang".

Meanwhile, the shaft Bratrstvi was abandoned, and the production was taken over by the shaft Panorama. Very active veins at the shaft Panorama are the veins 6 and 6a, which, in southerly direction, extend to a large geological fault.

For geological composition, see shaft Svornost.

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The ore is sorted at the shaft Panorama. In this mine, the same quantity of graded ore is produced as in the other mines. The output of S and U material (at least 10 tons of active material daily), however, is larger since the exhausted roofs (Firste) are drawn off (abgezapft). The graded ore as well as the active material is transported to Elias or Nejdek. 50X1-HUM

The chief of the shaft is the Hungarian engineer Fedor Gabanyi,

The technical head is a Soviet engineer. The workforce per shift lies between 250 and 300 men.

(3) Shaft Jizni Jama

The shaft Jizni Jama was sunk in 1958 for prospecting purposes. It is 200 m. deep. Two levels, one at a depth of 100 m, the other one at 150 m. were driven as crosscuts in easterly direction. Both crosscuts are 400 m. long. It was thus possible to cut the veins interrupted by the fault mentioned before.

Nothing can as yet be said about extraction, sorting and removal of the ore since the shaft is still under construction. In 1960, it will presumably put into service. The prospects for rich deposits are good.

The head of the shaft is a shift foreman, who is subordinate to the head of the shaft Panorama. The workforce per shift lies between 30 and 35 men.

f. Flavno Shaft Vladimir (see Annex 8)

In 1949/50, the shaft Vladimir was sunk to the third level at a depth of 150 m. In 1958/59, the fourth to eighth levels were sunk by means of the N blind shaft in order to be able to cut the very rich veins 5 and 5a, which had already been cut from the third level. Future mining prospects are very good since there is a yet unexplored field in the east which has the necessary geological conditions. It has the same geological composition as the Jachymov belt.

The vein 5a, which is very rich and contains lentil-shaped, compact ore (diameter up to 12 cm) with bauxite and quartz country rock, was cut in 1958.

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For sorting, output and removal of the ore, see other shafts.

The head of the shaft Vladimir is the Czech engineer Stetina (fnu) The technical head is a Soviet engineer. The workforce per shift is about 300 men..

15. Sorting, Crushing and Dressing Installations in Elias

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The sorting, crushing and dressing installations are located in one block.

After a coarse sorting at the individual shafts, the ore is removed, either packed in boxes or in a loose condition. The amount of ore daily arriving in Elias as well as in Nejdek is estimated at 14 to 15 tons of packed

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material, grades 1 to 6, and 20 to 25 tons of loose U and S material. The shipments come from the shafts Plavno, Panorama, Rovnost I, Elias, Abertemy, Barbora and Eduard.

Grade 1 ore (pure ore) is filled into barrels, 60 cm. high and 40 cm. in diameter, without further treatment and hauled away. The material of the grades 2 to 6 is sorted by special machines (nut to fist sizes) and then filled into barrels.

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The ore is sorted on shakers and by special sorting machines of Soviet make [ ] which are working with Geiger counters, grading the ore in "fine" 2 to 6. U and S material which is separated by the sorting machines is ground to dust in ball mills. It is then conveyed by belts to the vibrator tables for wet dressing and, after renewed sorting, dried and filled into barrels. U and S material coming directly from the individual mines undergoes the same treatment as the U and S material mentioned before. In the case of graded ore, the rejects amount to about 10 per cent. Regarding the U and S material, estimates lie at about 80 per cent.

Leading positions are held by Soviet employees, whose subordinates are Czechs. No names are known and no information can be given on the organization and administration of the plant. The workforce consists nearly exclusively of prisoners. The shakers (vibrator tables) are attended by free women. Work is done in two shifts of about 50 workers each.

It is not known where the chemicals used at the plant come from.

The plant and shaft Elias are guarded by border guard soldiers and fenced in by a double barbed-wire fence. Watch towers were erected. Everybody who has a permit issued by the Jachymov Mines is allowed to enter.

Up to 1955, some of the U and S material was shipped unpacked without having been dressed or crushed. From 1956 on, however, all U and S material had to undergo dressing and crushing, which caused a decrease in the volume of the ore shipments.

#### 16. Nejdek OTK and Dressing Plant [ ]

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Formerly, there were three wet dressing plants, one at the shaft Bratrstvi, one at the shaft Elias and one in Vysoka Pec. In the autumn of 1957, the Bratrstvi plant was combined with that at the shaft Elias and the installations of Vysoka Pec were transferred to Nejdek, where a new plant with the same installations (sorting, crushing and dressing installations) as the Elias plant was established. The equipment of the Nejdek plant, however, is more modern. Details are not known.

The Nejdek dressing plant is under Soviet control. All employees not belonging to the management, as well as all workers, are Czechs. It is assumed that, in view of a further development of the Jachymov uranium ore mining industry, the Nejdek plant will be used as a central installation for ore sorting and dressing and that, in two or three years, it will cooperate in fulfilling the tasks which, at present, are fulfilled by the Elias plant alone.

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## 17. Transloading Plant in Dolni Zdar

In open barrels (about 30 barrels per truck), the ore is transported by truck (TATRA 111) from the Elias or Nejdek plant to the transloading plant in Dolni Zdar, where the barrels are closed, made ready for shipment and then loaded on closed Czechoslovak boxcars (standard cars of a carrying capacity of 10 tons). Since 1958, a spur track is available.

In 1958, the already existing trackage between Ostrov and Jachymov was closed for civilian traffic and, from then on, has served for the ore shipments as far as Dolni Zdar. It constitutes the connection to the main line Cheb - Podmokly. The ore shipments consist of 20 to 25 cars each and are guarded by Soviet soldiers from Dolni Zdar onwards. They are generally going in the direction of Bodenbach - East Germany. The further route is unknown.

18. Power Supply

- a. The thermal power plant which supplies the northwestern part of the Bohemian mining area is located in Ervenice

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The transformer station for the entire Jachymov mining industry is located in Kfely. It was constructed in 1949 and expanded considerably in 1952. The primary line (6 wires) of presumably 10,000 V comes from the east. From the station, the transformed current is transmitted to the individual transformer installations at the various shafts.

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- b. The mining areas of Sokolov, Pilsen and Jachymov, North and Northwest Bohemia, are supplied with electric power by the new thermal power plant in Tisova near Sokolov. Construction work at the plant was started in the spring of 1956. In December 1959, the first three steam turbines were put into operation.

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19. General

In order to bind the workforce released by the uranium-ore industry to the Jachymov area, efforts are being made to transfer sections of the former Skoda enterprise to the Jachymov area. It is planned to manufacture trolley buses, Diesel engines and buses.

Comment: The designation "Ministerium fuer die Erforschung radioaktiver Stoffe" used in the Annexes must be replaced by "Staatsinstitut fuer die Erforschung radioaktiver Rohstoffe" (State Institute for Research Work on Radioactive Raw Materials).

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